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Demonologists warn of evil spirits

By JULIE DOLL

HAYS (HNS) — As Lorraine Warren's lilting voice began the story of her work in demonology, the lights dimmed on the crowd of about 1,000.

Those gathered in the Fort Hays State University Memorial Union were taken on a two-and-a-half hour journey of the occult by the Warrens, a journey that included ghosts, evil spirits, satanic possession and clairvoyant mediums.

For the past 33 years, Lorraine and Ed Warren have investigated supernatural phenomena, and they're on the lecture circuit trying to convince the public that evil forces do exist.

Ed grew up in a haunted house. At the age of nine, Lorraine discovered she had extra sensory perception. After marrying more than 30 years ago, the couple embarked on a career in psychic investigation. They call themselves demonologists.

The two have 3,000 psychic cases to their credit, including 44 exorcisms in which Ed has participated.

Their best known work was for a television station in New York; work that documented the work of "diabolical" spirits in a house in Amityville, N.Y. - a house from which the best selling book and the popular film "The Amityville Horror" were taken.

The Warrens emphasized that they were not in Hays to promote the book, "in which literary license was tekan," or the movie, "in which dramatic literary license was taken."

The two said they want to warn people from becoming involved in the occult - from Ouija boards to satanic worship.

They told of bizarre incidents involving everything from Raggedy Ann dolls to what they called psychic photographs.

The Raggedy Ann doll belonged to a 28-year-old nurse. One morning the doll was set at the breakfast table by its owner; the doll levitated its arms and put them on the table.

The doll told the nurse and her roommate that she was inhabited with the spirit of a small girl who had been killed in a car accident, Ed said, and from then on the women treated the doll as a child.

But, Ed warned, it was not the spirit of the small girl, but the devil that inhabited the doll. The nurse's fiancee, Ed continued, didn't like the doll and one day threw it across the room. "Seven deep slashes" immediately appeared on his chest and stomach, Ed said.

The doll is now kept in a room full of similar relics the Warrens have collected over the years.

Humans, dead or alive, do not have the power to create supernatural phenonemon without aid from either good or evil forces, Lorraine said. Ghosts and other incidents are manufactured by the devil.

In many cases of satanic possession, Ed said, the devil convinces a person (women are more vulnerable than men) that a voice or figure is really the spirit of someone who had died.

Possession, she said, has three stages: Infiltration, when the evil spirit begins speaking or appearing to the subject; oppression, when the spirit begins to make demands on the subject; and, possession, when the subject becomes an organ for the spirit and is manipulated by it.

In psychic photographs, a person who has died appears without explanation in photographs. One such photo, the Warrens presented, showed an elderly woman sitting in the back of her son-in-law's car after the man and his wife had gone to visit the woman's grave.

"Some people just can't get rid of their mother-in-laws — dead or alive," Ed quipped.

Other psychic photos, all checked for authenticity by leading psychic organizations, showed young children or lovers who had died years ago. The figures were generally vague with little more than facial outlines discernible. But, in some of the photos, the person's features were clear.

The Warrens said they are trying to convince people that evil spirits do exist. The popularity of the occult has caused many people to become involved in it, creating dangerous situations for themselves and others, they said.

In the Amityville case, Ronald Defoe, who methodically murdered the members of his family, practiced satanic worship, they said. Defoe now says the murders were the work of the devil.

After the murder, another family moved into the home, but left 28 days later with little more than the clothes on their back. The home, the family said, was haunted by evil spirits.

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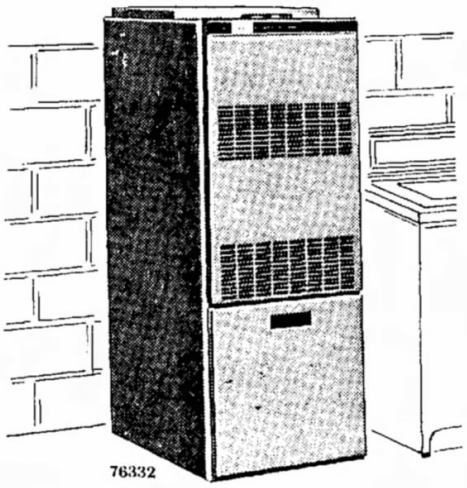

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Ed & Lorraine Warren lecture at Fort Hays State University

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